

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art, Polgar et al (Journal of the Chemical Society, Long-chain Acids Containing a Quaternary C Atom. Part II, 1943, pages 615-619), teaches (Page 616, 2nd full paragraph from bottom) the compound β -n-decyl- β -n-dodecyl-propionic acid in which $n=8$. The instantly claimed compounds, in which both n 's have the same value and n does not equal 8, however, are neither disclosed nor fairly suggested by Polgar. The instantly claimed compounds, compositions and methods are therefore patentable over the teaching of Polgar, the closest prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard L. Treanor on March 12, 2008.

The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 4: The phrase- "and wherein, n does not equal 8" has been inserted after the phrase "4 to 30" and before the terminal period ".".

3. **All questions pertaining to an application that has been allowed should be directed to the Office of Patent Publications Image Assistance Center at 888-786-0101.**

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul A. Zucker whose telephone number is 571-272-0650. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 5:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Evonne Eyler can be reached on 571-272-0871. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1621

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Paul A. Zucker/
Primary Examiner,
Art Unit 1621